

Message Text

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ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01 SSO-00 /129 W

----- 002732

P R 131145Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0798

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF

JCS

CINCPAC

CDR 13TH AF CLARK AB

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13TH ADVON UDORN

CDR JCRC NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 7109

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, VN, TH, LA

SUBJECT: THAI POWS AND EMMET KAY RELEASE DISCUSSED WITH
PATHET LAO

REF: STATE 200133 (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE TO REFTTEL, CONCERNING THAI POWS DETAINED
WITH AMERICAN POWS IN HANOI, EMBOFF CALLED ON COLONEL
PHAO BOUNNAPHOL, LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) SPOKESMAN TO
THE JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENTS (JCCIA).
PHAO DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF EITHER CHAI CHARN HARNAVEE
OR WANG CHOM NAPADOM, BUT PROMISED TO "SEE IF THEY ARE ON
THE LIST" AND TO CALL EMBOFF IF THEY ARE.

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2. THAI EMBASSY OFFICER, WHO ACCOMPANIED U.S. EMBOFF,

ASKED PHAO IF FOREIGN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTEND RELEASE CEREMONY IN PHONG SAVAN. PHAO ANSWERED THAT ONLY PRES (AND PRESUMABLY ICC AND JCIA REPS) WOULD BE IN ATTENDANCE. HE NOTED THAT THE LPF WOULD TURN THEIR LISTS OF POWS OVER TO THE VIENTIANE SIDE AT 0900 HOURS ON SEPTEMBER 17 AT THE LPF PHONE XAY HEADQUARTERS.

3. PHAO NOTED TO EMBOFF THAT HIS VISIT WAS OPPORTUNE, SINCE HE HAD JUST BEEN INFORMED BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE THAT LPF WILL RELEASE EMMET KAY BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 20 AND 25, "DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER," DIRECT FROM SAM NEUA TO VIENTIANE VIA AIRPLANE. HE NOTED THAT THE LPF DOES NOT WANT TO MIX KAY'S RELEASE WITH THE OTHERS, SINCE HIS CASE IS "DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS."

4. PHAO ADDED THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S CHOICE OF AIRCRAFT WAS THE SOVIET AN-2. HE ASKED IF THE U.S. MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE GAS FOR THE ROUNDTRIP. EMBOFF PROMISED TO CHECK INTO MATTER, BUT ASKED PHAO IF ANOTHER PLANE MIGHT BE ALLOWED TO FLY TO SAM NEUA TO PICK UP KAY. PHAO REPLIED THAT CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S SECOND CHOICE WOULD BE BRITISH EMBASSY PLANE.

5. EMBOFF ASKED FURTHER IF IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE ONE OR, AT MAXIMUM, TWO AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS ACCOMPANY PLANE TO SAM NEUA; PHAO STATED THAT HE WOULD CHECK WITH CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND LET EMBOFF KNOW THEIR VERDICT.

6. COMMENT: CHANGE IN DATE OF KAY'S RELEASE IS DIS-QUIETING. EMBASSY WILL ENDEAVOR TO (A) ASSURE USE OF BRITISH RATHER THAN SOVIET AIRCRAFT AND (B) HAVE AMERICAN ESCORT OFFICER(S) PLACED ON WHATEVER AIRCRAFT IS DISPATCHED TO PICK UP KAY.

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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